

February 11, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians of Metuchen High School Students:

Please be informed that yesterday morning a staff member found a bomb threat written on the wall of a second floor bathroom. The local police were immediately contacted. They and school authorities investigated and decided to evacuate the premises to allow area K-9 units to sweep the building. At 1:15 p.m., a lockdown was put in place and an orderly evacuation of the building ensued. Students and staff were relocated to the First Baptist Church on Route 27. At 2:20 p.m., students and staff were notified that the building was safe. Upon entering the building, students returned to their sixth period classes, where they remained until dismissal.

Early this morning, the K-9 units again swept the building before school began. Upon declaring the building safe, students were permitted to enter through the front doors only. At that point, Mr. Peragallo, Mr. Economou, and designated staff conducted a search of any carrying items with the local police observing and the K-9 units standing by. Be advised that nothing of an unsafe nature was discovered and the school day proceeded normally.

It should be noted that I was very proud of how staff and students conducted themselves during the lockdown, evacuation, and search protocols. In addition, the cooperation from local and regional law enforcement agencies was at the highest levels. Every effort will be made to identify the person responsible for this incident, and he/she will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Any anonymous tips can be forwarded to Sgt. Kilker of the Metuchen Police Department at 732-632-8541.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John R. Novak  
Principal